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Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
MIDWESTERN AREA - OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
--- 623 S. WABASH AVE., CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS.

November 4, 1953

OUTLOOK FOR 1954

USDA held its annual Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington October 26 through 30. Department economists report farm financial picture still "fairly good" all over despite price-cost squeeze which has reduced net farm income back to 1950 level of \$12.4 billion, with purchasing power equivalent of 1941 net income of \$6.1 billion. Meanwhile average spendable income per person in U.S. is 15% greater than 1950, with purchasing power 20% above 1941.

Looking ahead to 1954, USDA sees prospects of stability in farm economy at level of 1953, with no further intensification of price-cost situation. Here are Department's 1954 forecasts:

Production and Supplies - Volume of all 1954 crops expected somewhat less than 1953, due to reduced acreages of wheat, cotton, and probably corn. But supplies of farm commodities will continue heavy. Stocks of wheat, corn, and cotton far exceed requirements and probably will continue to grow. Marketings of livestock and livestock products about same as 1953.

Markets - Consumer demand expected to stay close to 1953 level. Reduced government spending and some easing in business activity will be offset by take-home pay bolstered by tax reductions.

Exports - Demand for U. S. farm products abroad shows little signs of weakening further next year. Prospects of increased foreign buying of U.S. cotton, food fats and tobacco. Wheat exports may drop further because of near-record world wheat production and stocks.

Farm Prices - Prices received by farmers may average near 1953 levels; with aid of price supports. Prices paid by farmers may average slightly downward.

Farm Income - Cash receipts from marketings not expected to reach the \$31.2 billion of 1953 due to reduced acreages of wheat, cotton, and possibly corn. Production costs may show slight decline. Farmers' net income expected somewhat below 1953.

Livestock and Meat - Continued large supplies of meat in prospect. Unusually large supplies of beef; prices expected to hold relatively stable around current levels. Pork supply will increase from 1953 low as result of bigger farrowings this fall and next spring. Prices comparatively high at least until next fall.

Dairy Products - Milk production next year not much above 118 billion lbs. estimated for 1953. However carryover stocks dairy products equivalent to over 8 billion lbs. of milk, will bring total supplies above demand. Prices may drop, but with production costs expected to decline a little, net dairy income will about equal 1953.

Poultry and Eggs - Production of eggs and broilers expected to rise somewhat over 1953 record output these products. Prices may average somewhat lower, but farm value of all eggs and poultry products will come near this year's record high of \$4 billion.

Grains - Wheat-1954 crop under acreage allotments and marketing quotas calling for 20% reduction from 1953. Price support at \$2.20 per bu.

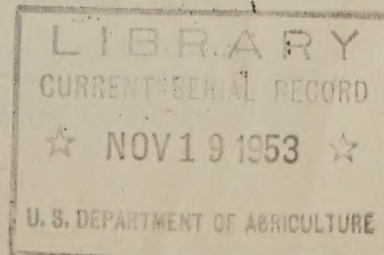
Corn - Acreage allotments probable but no marketing quotas. Feed concentrates: Supply near record per animal unit.

Fats and Oils - Production may be below consumption plus exports, but supplies expected to be more than adequate because of large carryovers. Exports expected to increase somewhat.

Fruits and Vegetables - Production of deciduous and citrus fruits in 1954 will probably be somewhat larger than 1953. Weather and yields will determine direction of price changes. Indicated production of vegetables for commercial processing, and carryover stocks from earlier packs assure adequate supplies.

Cotton - 1954 production will be under acreage allotments and possible marketing quotas. Supplies for 1953-54 marketing year estimated 21 million running bales. With production restricted next year, carryover still expected to increase by 3 million bales next August 1. Growers will vote on quotas in December. If approved, price support at 90% of parity available to cooperators.

Tobacco - Domestic use of flue-cured and Burley tobacco in 1953-54 expected to exceed record use of 1952-53. Supplies adequate. Exports expected to increase.



USDA REORGANIZATION

Reorganization of USDA became effective November 2 along substantially the same lines as proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Benson on October 13. New organization puts all service agencies of Department into four main groups:

Federal-State Relations - Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, Farmer Cooperative Service.

Marketing and Foreign Agriculture - Agricultural Marketing Service (market news, grading, inspection, regulatory), Foreign Agricultural Service (exports and promotion foreign trade), Commodity Exchange Authority.

Agricultural Stabilization - Commodity Stabilization Service (including CCC programs of price support, commodity procurement and disposal), Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Community, County, and State Committees.

Agricultural Credit - Farmers Home Administration and Rural Electrification. All functions of Production and Marketing Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are transferred to the services listed above.

* * *

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

USDA awarded contracts last week for purchase of 6,971,500 lbs. canned beef and 1,188,000 lbs. hamburger under program to aid marketing of lower grades of livestock. Total contracts to date, 187 million lbs. Filling of contracts requires slaughter of 700,000 head of lower grade cattle, 200,000 head prior to November 1, balance November 1 through December 15, period of heaviest marketing.

MEAT PRODUCED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 31
ESTIMATED 394 MILLION LBS., UP 3% FROM PRECEDING WEEK AND
11% ABOVE THE SAME 1952 WEEK. CATTLE SLAUGHTER DOWN 1%
IN WEEK, BUT 24% ABOVE 1952. HOG KILL ROSE 10% IN WEEK.
WEEK'S OUTPUT INCLUDED (MILLION LBS.): BEEF, 194; VEAL, 22.5;
PORK, 163.3; LAMB AND MUTTON, 13.9.

* * *

DAIRY

Production of creamery butter and cheese has been declining at more than normal seasonal rate since August and toward end of October was in line with demand or lagging slightly behind. USDA both bought and sold butter this week with sales greater than purchases. Cumulative butter sales through November 2 amounted to 2,867,953. Sales of cheese totaled 1,102,182 lbs.

* * *

GRAINS

There will be no marketing quotas for 1954 crop of corn, Agriculture Secretary Benson announced October 28. However, under requirements of existing legislation, acreage allotments will be proclaimed later for commercial corn producing area.

The "commercial corn producing area" includes about 850 counties, mostly in "corn belt." Data to determine possible acreage allotment now being gathered by USDA.

USDA Commodity offices report following sales week ended October 29: corn, 2,262,946 bus.; wheat, 49,100 bus.; oats, 3,128 bus.; barley, 2,650 bus.; flaxseed, 1,423 bus.; butter, 1,416,808 lbs.; cheese, 319,296 lbs.; peanuts, 1,133,164 lbs. Of corn sales, 191,762 bus. were for export.

U.S. sales under the International Wheat Agreement October 21-27 inc., totaled 6,394,000 bus., (including 411,159 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.). Principal buyers were Spain and Japan. Cumulative U.S. sales, 37 million bus.

* * *

POULTRY

September liquid egg production totaled 11 million lbs., about same as year earlier and 2 million below 1947-51 average. Dried egg output from fresh and frozen liquid eggs, 1.4 million lbs., frozen production, 9.5 million lbs., slightly above September 1952, but 2.8 million lbs. more than 1947-51 average.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MIDWESTERN AREA - OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES — 623 S. WABASH AVE., CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS.

November 10, 1953

GRAINS

Wheat from 1953 crop placed under price support by U.S. producers through October 15, totaled 350,364,378 bus. This compares with 312,434,433 bus. from 1952 crop put under supports through October 5, 1952. Loans and purchase agreements are available to producers through January 31, 1954.

Largest quantities under support were in Kansas, 58,111,731 bus.; Oklahoma, 40,571,921 bus.; Washington, 38,069,027 bus.; North Dakota, 27,596,561 bus.; Nebraska, 27,015,396 bus.

Other 1953 crop grains and oilseeds under support through October 15 (million bus.): barley, 18.1; corn, 0.4; flaxseed, 7.2; grain sorghums, 6.0; oats, 30.3; rye, 2.4; soybeans, 5.6. Winter cover crop seeds under support totaled 48,736 cwt.; dry edible beans, 1,261,382 cwt.; rough rice, 282,956 cwt.

Sales by U. S. exporters under the International Wheat Agreement October 28 through November 3 totaled 2,573,000 bus. (including 220,172 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.). Cumulative U. S. sales against 1953-54 quotas, 39,573,000 bus.

U.S. exports of rice during marketing year August 1952-July 1953 estimated 17,391,000 bags (100 lbs., milled). This compares with average of 9,096,000 bags from 1945-46 through 1949-50. Exports in August 1953, first month new marketing year amounted to 568,000 bags, compared with 519,000 bags in August 1952.

* * *

DROUGHT AID:

USDA Commodity Offices have shipped following feeds to drought areas in 13 states, based on orders from State USDA Drought Committees through October 30; cottonseed meal, 334,976 tons; corn, 6,893,610 bus.; wheat, 356,574 bus.; oats, 9,658,880 bus. Orders from State Committees awaiting shipment: cottonseed meal, 123,773 tons; corn, 484,950 bus.; wheat 24,192 bus.; oats, 1,261,840 bus.

Department announced November 6 that arrangements have been completed or are under negotiation with eight states for putting into effect cooperative Federal State hay distribution program for drought-stricken areas. Agreements completed with, and federal funds set aside for Arkansas, Kansas, Nevada and Virginia. Under discussion with Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee.

MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATURE IN SPECIAL SESSION APPROPRIATED \$6.5 MILLION FOR STATE HAY PROCUREMENT PROGRAM AND HAY SUPPLIES NOW MOVING TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN FARMERS IN THAT STATE.

* * *

U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

In contrast to preceding 8 months, U.S. exports of agricultural products during August were valued at \$201,207,000, up 2.4% from July and 7.8% greater than in August 1952.

Wheat and products led with \$42.5 million, 23% under July and 27% below August 1952; cotton valued at \$35 million, was \$14 million above July and 68% greater than August 1952; leaf tobacco, in third place, was valued at \$26.9 million, up \$12.8 million from July and 25% above year ago. Corn shipments worth \$15.3 million, were nearly triple those of year earlier.

Other large increases were noted in shipments of tallow, oranges, tangerines, rice, beef and veal, nonfat and whole milk solids, evaporated milk, field and garden seeds, hops, dry beans and canned vegetables. There were large reductions from August last year for butter, cheese, dried eggs, lard, barley, soybean oil and flour, dry peas, white potatoes.

* * *

STOCKS OF OLD SOYBEANS IN ALL POSITIONS OCTOBER 1 AMOUNTED TO 10,997,000 BUS., TRIPLE LAST YEAR'S STOCKS AND LARGEST SINCE 1944. CARRYOVER INCLUDES; 6.6 MILLION BUS. ON FARMS, 1.1 MILLION BUS. AT TERMINALS, CCC STOCKS OF 240,000 BUS., AND BALANCE IN MILLS, ELEVATORS AND WAREHOUSES.

* * *

Tung nuts from 1953 crop will be supported at \$63.38 per ton, basis 18.5% oil content. Grower owned tung oil will be supported at 23.9¢ per pound. Support level reflects 65% of parity.

* * *

POULTRY

Poultry certified for canning and evisceration under federal inspection during September totaled 106.6 mil. lbs., about 17 million lbs. more than September last year. Of total, 10.9 million lbs. was for canning, balance eviscerated for sale, which was 21 million lbs. above 1952.

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DAIRY

September output of nonfat dry milk solids totaled 67.1 million lbs., highest level for month in 19 years, 29% above September 1952, and 43% over the 1947-51 average. Production January through September 1953 totaled 972.7 million lbs., 37% over same months of 1952. Manufacturers' stocks end of September, 86.7 million lbs. USDA purchased 372.6 million lbs. nonfat milk powder April 1 through October 27 for price support.

Evaporated milk output in September amounted to 170 million lbs., lowest for month since 1939, 30% less than year earlier and 36% under the 1947-51 average. Production first 9 months of 1953 was 2,086 million lbs., down 9% from same 1952 period.

Production creamery butter January 1 through October 29, 1953, estimated 1,210,550,000 lbs., 19% above the same 1952 period and 6% over the 5 year average. Output of American cheese same period 860 million lbs., 14% above 1952 and 8% above the 5 year average.

USDA currently making only nominal purchases of butter and is selling considerable quantities to the trade. Butter acquisitions by Department for price support April 1 through November 6 total approximately 218 million lbs. Sales through same date, 3,285,111 lbs. Cheese purchases same period, 208,730,265 lbs.; sales, 1,353,932 lbs.

* * *

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Commercial meat production (federally inspected and other, except farm) in U.S. during September amounted to 1,969 million lbs., 10% above August and 14% more than September 1952. Output January through September 1953 totaled 16,781 million lbs., 10% above the same 1952 period. Nine month production included (in million lbs.): beef, 8,797, 30% above 1952 period; veal, 1,040, up 39%; lamb and mutton, 523, up 15%; pork, 6,421, down 12% from 1952.

USDA last week awarded contracts for purchase of 8,129,000 lbs. canned beef and 1,636,000 lbs. hamburger for delivery in December 1953 and in 1954. Total beef purchases under program to bolster market for lower grades livestock, 196,580,771 lbs. Includes 24,534,040 lbs. carcass beef and other beef products bought for export to Greece and Germany.

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COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

CCC commodities available for domestic sale during November: butter, cheddar cheese, nonfat dry milk solids, raw linseed oil, crude and refined cottonseed oil, cottonseed meal, olive oil, peanuts, dry edible beans (large and baby lima), flaxseed, barley, rye, oats, corn, grain sorghums, soybeans, wool, and 15 grass and cover crop seeds. All available for export also at specified domestic sale prices.

Available for export at specified export prices: crude and refined cottonseed oil, raw linseed oil, olive oil, peanuts and corn.

USDA Commodity Offices report following sales week ended November 5: corn, 2,082,565 bus.; wheat, 15,300 bus.; oats, 6,740 bus.; soybeans, 9,770 bus.; flaxseed, 2,584 bus.; barley, 2,680 bus.; dry edible beans, 1,667 cwt.; butter, 531,364 lbs.; peanuts, 1,750,000 lbs.

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SUGAR DISTRIBUTION BY PRIMARY DISTRIBUTORS IN U.S. JANUARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1953 FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AMOUNTED TO 6,466,812 TONS, COMPARED WITH 6,316,916 TONS IN THE SAME 1952 MONTHS. STOCKS HELD BY PRIMARY DISTRIBUTORS SEPTEMBER 30 TOTALED 851,151 TONS, COMPARED WITH 696,489 TONS YEAR EARLIER.

* * *

POTATOES

USDA and potato growers organization enlisting cooperation of food distributors and information outlets in promoting consumption of special merchandising and publicity effort December

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November 18, 1953

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Volume of cattle placed on feed this season will be smaller than last year. Decreases in feeding expected to be rather general, with only few states equalling or exceeding number on feed year earlier.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into 9 Cornbelt states July through October, were 24% below year ago with all states showing reductions. Largest decreases in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin, with in-shipments from public markets well below year ago in Missouri and Kansas.

Special surveys October 1 showed 3% more cattle on feed in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska than year earlier but number placed on feed July through September was 6% under year ago.

Number of sheep and lambs to be fed for winter and spring market also less than 1952. Spring 1953 lamb crop in western states was 6% larger than 1952 but slaughter through October above year earlier, leaving smaller number for feeding. Shipments into 9 corn belt states for feeding, July through October, was 24% less than 1952.

USDA last week awarded contracts for purchase of 12,099,295 lbs. canned beef and 3,013,000 lbs. hamburger for delivery after January 1, 1954. Total meat products under USDA contract, 211,986,066 lbs., of which 40% was to be delivered by November 15. About 450,000 head of lower grade cattle needed to fill balance of contracts. Cattle must be purchased prior to December 15, under provisions of purchase contracts.

MEAT PRODUCTION UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 14 ESTIMATED BY USDA AT 397 MILLION LBS., DOWN 8% FROM PRECEDING WEEK BUT 9% ABOVE SAME WEEK OF 1952. HOLIDAY REDUCED OUTPUT. CATTLE SLAUGHTER 27% ABOVE 1952, CALF, 21%. WEEK'S PRODUCTION INCLUDED (MILLION LBS.): BEEF, 187.4; VEAL, 20.7; PORK, 177.4; LAMB AND MUTTON, 11.6.

* * *

DROUGHT

Secretary of Agriculture Benson November 12 added 121 counties to the designated drought areas to bring total number of counties in 13 states to 573, about 19% of all counties in U.S. Meanwhile feed deliveries at reduced prices have been suspended in 102 counties (excluded from above total), because of improved conditions.

Eligible farmers in designated areas may purchase CCC-owned feed at reduced prices: cottonseed meal, \$35.00 per ton; corn, \$1.00 per bushel; oats, 50¢ per bushel; and feed wheat at \$1.10 per bushel. Shipments into the drought areas by CCC Commodity Offices through November 7, totaled: cottonseed meal, 341,895 tons; corn, 7,726,000 bus.; wheat, 369,000 bus.; oats, 9,060,000 bus.

* * *

CROPS - 1953

With weather conditions favorable to ideal during October for maturing and harvest of late growing crops, total expected volume of all 1953 crops increased slightly, according to BAE's Crop Reporting Board. Crop third largest of record, nearly up to 1952 volume but below 1948. Forecast for the corn crop reduced 16 million bus. to 3,180 million bus., of good to excellent quality. Expected soybean crop is 252 million bus., about 39 million bus. less than 1952 crop. Winter wheat prospects November 1 varied widely by areas but, on the whole, were better than year earlier.

* * *

MILK PRODUCTION ON U.S. FARMS IN OCTOBER ESTIMATED 8,779 MILLION LBS., NEW HIGH RECORD FOR THE MONTH AND 1% ABOVE A YEAR AGO. CUMULATIVE MILK PRODUCTION JANUARY THROUGH OCTOBER 1953, 103,152 MILLION LBS. COMPARED WITH 98,537 MILLION LBS. IN THE SAME 10 MONTHS OF 1952.

POULTRY

U.S. farm flocks produced 4,614 million eggs during October, record high for month, 6% above October 1952, and 33% more than 1942-51 October average. Egg production rate was 13.0 eggs per layer, new high rate for month, compares with 12.4 last year and average of 9.9.

Nation's laying flock was 340 million layers in October, up 1% from last year. Potential layers on farms November 1 (including pullets not yet of laying age) numbers 448 million, 1% above year ago but 10% under 10-year average for date.

GRAINS

USDA announced November 10 tentative acceptance of more applications for participation in grain occupancy program totaling 51,239,648 bus. capacity. Total acceptance (tentative basis), 187,580,101 bus. Acceptances announced November 10 in large part for local storages in production areas. USDA agrees to use new storage or pay rent at reduced rates.

Sale of 21 million lbs. of hay, pasture and winter cover crop seeds for export was announced November 9 by USDA. Sale included (million lbs.): Northern Alfalfa (Washington origin), 6; ladino clover, 2; Red Clover, 4.4; Alsike clover, 2; common Vetch, 6; Tall Fescue, 0.5; Birdsfoot Trefoil, 0.1.

U. S. sales under the International Wheat Agreement November 4 through 10, amounted to 3,598,000 bus. (including 153,219 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.). Principal buyers, Spain and Japan. Cumulative U.S. sales under 1953-54 quotas, 43,171,000 bus.

USDA Commodity Offices report following sales from price support inventories November 6 through 12: corn, 1,495,690 bus.; wheat, 14,099 bus.; oats, 6,778 bus.; grain sorghums, 8,676 cwt.; barley, 2,111 bus.; rye, 174 bus.; soybeans, 8,649 bus.; flaxseed, 2,444 bus.; clover seed, 667 cwt.; butter, 68,410 lbs.; cheese, 63,648 lbs.; peanuts, for crushing, 6,058,000 lbs.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED REQUIREMENT THAT FARMERS MUST COMPLY WITH ALL BASIC COMMODITY ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS ESTABLISHED FOR THEIR FARMS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRICE SUPPORT ON ANY ONE BASIC COMMODITY, WILL NOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT FOR CROPS PRODUCED IN 1954. HOWEVER, PRODUCERS WILL HAVE TO BE IN COMPLIANCE ON ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS ON ANY ONE CROP FOR WHICH THEY WANT PRICE SUPPORT.

* * *

SUGAR

Charges against U.S. sugar quotas, January through October 1953, amounted to 7,317,877 tons, compared with 6,942,745 tons in same 1952 period.

Sugar stocks held by retailers, wholesalers and industrial users, September 30 estimated 456,000 tons, slightly below holdings of 467,600 year earlier.

Distribution by primary distributors for consumption in the U.S. January 1 through November 7 estimated 7,236,423 tons. This compares with 6,795,792 through same 1952 period.

* * *

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Two separate grade-standards for concentrated orange juice becomes effective December 11, 1953, USDA announced November 9. Grades for canned (processed by flaxseed) concentrate orange juice are revision of those in effect since August, 1943. Grades for concentrated orange juice for manufacturing are new grade-standards. For details contact Fruit and Vegetable Branch, USDA, Washington D. C.

Fall production of principal commercial vegetables for fresh market expected only 2% under last year and 1% over the 1949-51 average for season. Output of fall snap beans, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and sweet corn expected above 1952. Reduction: for broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, lettuce, green peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes.

Total indicated production all commercial vegetables for fresh market in 1953 estimated 10.2 million tons, 5% above 1952 and 1949-51 average.

* * *

COTTON

With nearly ideal weather for harvesting, 1953 cotton crop estimate improved 497,000 bales during October to estimated 16,093,000 bales. This compares with 1952 crop of 15,136,000 bales and ten year average of 12,215,000 bales.

No estimate of cottonseed output until ginnings completed but, if ratio of seed to lint is same as 5 year average, production would be 6,579,000 tons, about 400,000 more than 1952.

* * *

FARM LABOR

Number of persons working on U.S. farms toward end of October was 10,328,000, of which 7,756,000 were farm operators and worker members of their families, and balance hired workers. Employment was down 1 million from a month earlier and about 1% under a year ago.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MIDWESTERN AREA - OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES --- 623 S. WABASH AVE., CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS.

November 24, 1953

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

CCC price-support program loans and inventories September 30 amounted to \$4,053,142,000. Corporation sustained net realized loss of \$46,795,595 carrying out programs July through September, 1953.

Of total investment, loans outstanding amounted to \$1,623,820,000, mostly on four commodities: wheat, 257 million bus.; corn, 277 million bus.; cotton, 2.1 million bales; tobacco, 500 million lbs.

Corporation's inventories were valued at \$2,429,321,000. Major inventory items were (in millions):- (bus.)-wheat, 464; corn, 236; flaxseed, 4.6; oats, 10.9; -(lbs.)-butter, 268; cheese, 242; cottonseed oil, 854; dried milk, 396; wool, .99; linseed oil, 189; field seeds, 254; cotton linters, 472; gum rosin, 311; peanuts, 127. Cotton holdings were 235,601 bales; dry edible beans, 767,629 cwt.

CCC inventories of baby lima beans from 1950 and '51 crops, were withdrawn from November sales list November 19 because their sale would interfere with normal movement of 1953-crop beans.

Sales by CCC Commodity Offices week ended November 19: corn, 1,212,257 bus.; wheat, 41,800 bus.; oats, 58,427 bus.; barley, 3,089 bus.; grain sorghums, 11,178 cwt.; soybeans, 496,246 bus.; flaxseed, 4,719 bus.; clover seed, 995 cwt.; butter, 174,281 lbs.; cheese, 846,635 lbs.; peanuts, 127,334 lbs.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

USDA's beef purchases to aid marketing of lower grade beef cattle amounted to 233,238,811 lbs. with last week's contracts to buy 13,723,745 lbs. canned beef, 2,637,000 lbs. hamburger, and 4,892,000 lbs. frozen carcass beef for export to Greece under FOA requisition. Canned beef and hamburger will be distributed in U.S. to school lunch programs and other outlets after January 1, 1954. Cumulative beef purchases by USDA will provide outlet for more than 800,000 head of cattle.

MEAT PRODUCTION UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION WEEK ENDED

NOVEMBER 21 ESTIMATED 432 MILLION LBS., UP 9% FROM THE

PRECEDING HOLIDAY WEEK AND 5% MORE THAN THE SAME WEEK

OF 1952. HOG SLAUGHTER LARGEST SINCE JANUARY, CATTLE

CONTINUED HIGH AND TOTAL OUTPUT ONE OF LARGEST THIS

YEAR. PRODUCTION INCLUDED (IN MILLION LBS.): BEEF,

200.6; VEAL, 19.6; PORK, 199.6; LAMB AND MUTTON, 12.1.

DISASTER PROGRAM

Total of 627 counties in the U.S. and parts of Hawaii now designated as disaster areas (about one county out of every five in U.S.) in which eligible farmers may buy feed and hay at reduced prices under a special program. Except for 17 counties in Florida where floods ravaged farmlands, areas in 13 states are stricken by severe drought.

Cooperative Federal-state hay distribution programs now under way in 9 states and one, Missouri, currently carrying out own program. All railroads running into the areas giving hay shippers 50% freight rate reduction through December 31, and two shipping lines have reduced rates 50% on feeds for Hawaii.

President Eisenhower November 19 authorized CCC to use its stocks of feeds in the emergency program without reimbursement from presently appropriated funds. This frees large part of \$40 million appropriated by Congress in July which had been obligated to CCC for reimbursement for losses on feeds sold to farmers at reduced prices.

Since disaster aid program got under way USDA Commodity Offices have shipped following feeds to stricken area through November 20: cottonseed meal, 361,740 tons; corn, 8,670,000 bus.; wheat, 392,000 bus.; oats, 11,230,720 bus. No records available on hay shipments distributed by state committees.

POTATOES LEAD USDA'S DECEMBER LIST OF PLENTIFUL FOODS.

IN ABOUT EQUAL ABUNDANCE ARE BEEF, DAIRY PRODUCTS, AND PECANS.

WINTER PEARS, GRAPEFRUIT, HONEY, FOOD FATS AND OILS, RAISINS,

PEANUTS AND PEANUT BUTTER, ONIONS, AND FROZEN FISH - ALL WILL

BE IN LIBERAL SUPPLY.

NET CHANGES IN COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - OCTOBER, 1953					
Cooler			Freezer		
Commodities	Holdings Oct. 31 1,000 lb.	Net Change during Oct. 1,000 lb.	Commodities	Holdings Oct. 31 1,000 lb.	Net Change during Oct. 1,000 lb.
Apples	1,324,224	+ 945,648	Cream	18,349	- 3,095
Pears	148,250	- 94,050	Butter, Creamery	304,359	-18,718
Other fresh fruits	202,436	+ 135,303	Eggs	86,752	-23,752
Fresh vegetables	100,397	+ 48,572	Poultry	257,544	+ 81,159
Dried & evp. fts.	29,746	- 3,585	Fruits	388,155	+ 14,633
Nuts & nut meats	50,454	-13,600	Juices	189,293	- 18,052
Cheese	445,080	-15,408	Vegetables	734,377	+ 46,024
Other dairy prod.	115,017	-18,015	Beef	167,137	+ 28,113
Shell eggs	12,465	- 9,765	Veal	15,266	+ 2,733
Dried eggs	1,937	- 745	Pork	91,998	- 16,997
Beef	7,382	- 437	Lamb & mutton	11,339	+ 1,226
Pork	86,976	- 4,626	Edible offal	48,621	- 300
Sausage	8,572	- 830	Sausage	5,687	+ 59
Canned meats	21,377	- 4,743	Miscellaneous	229,164	+ 16,820
Miscellaneous	238,898	+ 3,527			
Total	2,793,211	+ 796,246	Total	2,548,041	+ 110,488

October 31 occupancy: cooler, 70%; freezer, 80%. Frozen fruits new post-war high for date, frozen vegetables surpass all previous storage records. Creamery butter and American cheddar stocks also new high for date. Turkey holdings - 124 million lbs. - second largest of record. Beef stocks are under 1952, but above average, pork, down 20% from last year and October 31 average.

GRAINS

CCC will sell limited quantities of government-owned wheat for export to countries not under the International Wheat Agreement, USDA announced November 19. Prices f.o.b. specified ports, will be announced each day with IWA prices. Purpose of offer - increase exports of U. S. wheat and products by commercial exporters.

U.S. sales under International Wheat Agreement November 11 through 17 amounted to 1,548,000 bus. (including 362,661 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.) Principal buyers-Netherlands and Japan. Cumulative U.S. sales under 1953-54 quotas, 44,719,000 bus.

USDA tentative acceptances of applications for participation in grain occupancy guarantee program through November 19 amounted to 208,264,353 bus. of capacity. Acceptances announced last Thursday totaled 20,184,252 bus. - mostly for local storages in grain producing areas.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BENSON HAS ANNOUNCED FORMULATION WITH FRUIT INDUSTRY, OF PROGRAM TO REGAIN AND DEVELOP EXPORT MARKETS FOR U.S. FRUITS AND FRUIT PRODUCTS (APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES, LEMONS, GRAPEFRUIT, PLUMS, GRAPES, AND DRIED FRUITS). NEW PROGRAM WILL EMPHASIZE BOTH SURPLUS REMOVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONTINUOUS LONG-RANGE MARKETS.

POULTRY

National Turkey Federation's survey of official turkey testing agencies indicates breeders intend to keep 2% fewer heavy breed hens and 29% more light breed hens for production of turkeys in 1954. Federation so advised USDA's Turkey Industry Advisory Committee meeting at USDA November 14 and 15.

On the basis of these and other related facts, Advisory Committee warns that 1954 production of turkeys could be far in excess of potential markets, and suggests that producers sell some of their breeder hens on 1953 holiday market to avoid possible ruinous 1954 prices for industry.

Commercial hatcheries produced 95.9 million chicks during October, 9.5 million more than October 1952, and largest of record for month. Commercial hatch January-October 1953 exceeds 1,632 million chicks, about 75 million above same 1952 period, and record high for these months.

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Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

MIDWESTERN AREA - OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

536 South Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

December 1, 1953

FARM INCOME

U. S. farmers received about \$24.8 billion from marketings January through October 1953, 5% less than in same period of 1952. Receipts from livestock and products were about \$14.2 billion, 7% less than in 1952, due largely to lower prices of cattle and calves. Receipts from sale of milk, butterfat, and sheep and lambs also lower.

Cash receipts from crops in the 10 months estimated about \$10.6 billion, 2% less than last year. Receipts from marketings of wheat, soybeans, potatoes, truck crops and cotton all below same 1952 period. Farm cash income declined although volume of marketings considerably above 1952.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

CCC-owned commodities available for domestic sale during December: butter, cheddar cheese, nonfat dry milk solids, crude and refined cottonseed oil, raw linseed oil, olive oil, peanuts, dry edible (large lima) beans, flaxseed, barley, rye, oats, corn, grain sorghums, soybeans, wool, and 16 varieties grass and cover crop seeds.

Available for export, at specific export prices: crude and refined cottonseed oil, raw linseed oil, olive oil, peanuts, baby lima beans, wheat and corn. Also available for export at prices offered for domestic sale, are all commodities offered on domestic list.

Sales from domestic lists January 1 through October 16, totaled \$70,798,757. Sales from the export list, \$77,512,700.

Persons interested in purchasing CCC commodities for domestic use or export should contact Commodity Stabilization Service, USDA, Washington 25, D.C.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

USDA's beef purchase contracts last week totaled 6,649,390 lbs., including 5,177,390 lbs. canned beef at average cost of 39.95¢ per lb., and 1,472,000 lbs. hamburger averaging 35.85¢ per lb. Purchases bring November acquisitions to 52.8 million lbs. and cumulative purchases to aid market for lower grades of livestock to 240 million lbs. Estimated 830,000 head livestock required to fill contracts. All must be purchased by processors prior to December 15.

MEAT PRODUCTION UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 28 ESTIMATED 344 MILLION LBS., 20%
BELOW PRECEDING WEEK, BUT 3% ABOVE CORRESPONDING WEEK OF 1952
CATTLE KILL CONTINUED 38% ABOVE LAST YEAR; CALF, 29%; HOGS,
19% LESS. WEEK'S OUTPUT INCLUDED (MILLION LBS.): BEEF,
171.5; VEAL, 15.5; PORK, 146.4; LAMB AND MUTTON, 10.8.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

Upward trend in U.S. exports of farm products which started in July continued through September when shipments were valued at \$234,429,000, up 17% from August and 6% above September 1952. August agricultural exports were 8% under year earlier.

Exports of U.S. agricultural products July through September, first three months of the fiscal year, valued at \$632,099,000, an increase of 9% over corresponding months of 1952-53. Increase this year is credited to stronger foreign demand resulting from improved dollar holdings in important countries, as well as from replacing of depleted stocks and better competitive pricing of some U.S. products.

GRAINS

U.S. sales under the International Wheat Agreement, November 18 through 24 totaled 3,229,000 bus. (including 231,331 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.) Principal buyers, Spain and Norway. Cumulative U.S. sales under 1953-54 IWA quotas, 47,948,000 bus.

USDA Commodity Office sales, week ended November 26: corn, 1,091,787 bus.; wheat, 12,334 bus.; oats, 74,464 bus.; soybeans, 32,377 bus.; dry beans, 2,490 bus.; barley, 250 bus.; rye, 1,700 bus.; grain sorghums, 3,007 cwt.; peanuts, 5,926,000 lbs.; cheese, 151,036 lbs.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM PRICES

Farm parity ratio dropped in mid-November to lowest point since 1941, 90% of 1910-14 average. Index of prices received went down slightly while index of prices paid increased slightly during month from October 15 to November 15.

Drop in prices received came mostly in hogs, eggs, cotton; partly offset by higher prices for milk, wheat, several vegetables. Index was 10% below year earlier and 20% below high point of 313 in February, 1951.

Parity Index (prices paid by farmers) increased mainly because of increase in cost of feeder cattle. At 277 (1910-14 equals 100) Parity Index was 2% lower than year ago.

* * *

DISASTER EMERGENCY PROGRAM

With parts of Utah and Wyoming just added, total of 674 counties have been designated by Secretary of Agriculture as disaster areas in which farmers and ranchers are eligible to purchase government-owned feeds at reduced prices. Counties located in 17 states and number over 22% of all counties in nation. Of total, 657 stricken by drought, 17 (in Florida) suffering from flood damage.

USDA Commodity office have shipped these feeds into disaster areas through November 20: cottonseed meal, 361,740 tons, corn, 8,670,000 bus.; wheat, 393,000 bus.; oats, 9,783,000 bus.

MISSOURI BECAME 10TH STATE TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH
USDA FOR COOPERATIVE HAY DISTRIBUTION IN DROUGHT
AREAS. UNDER AGREEMENTS USDA WILL REIMBURSE STATES
FOR ABOUT HALF OF AVERAGE HAY TRANSPORTATION COSTS.
RAILROADS MOVING HAY INTO STRICKEN AREAS AT HALF
REGULAR FREIGHT RATES, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

* * *

COTTON

Exports of U.S. cotton during September amounted to 210,000 bales, making August-September 1953 total of 412,000 (500 lb.) bales, slightly above the same months of 1952. Although September shipments were 6,000 bales above August, increase was less than usual for season.

National acreage allotment of 17.9 million acres for the 1954 cotton crop announced by USDA November 23, more than 27% below 1952 acreage. Reduction is mandatory under current legislation. Producers will vote in referendum December 15 for or against marketing quotas on 1954 crop.

* * *

TOBACCO

USDA on November 27 issued proclamations for marketing quotas on following 1954 crop tobaccos: flue-cured, 1,325 million lbs.; burley, 526 million lbs.; fire cured 59.4 million lbs.; dark air-cured, 24.2 million lbs.; Virginia sun-cured, 6.3 million lbs. Growers of these tobaccos had voted previously in favor of marketing quotas on these tobaccos, and crops will be eligible for price support.

* * *

FERTILIZERS

Commodity Stabilization Service, USDA, has issued following estimates of available supply major plant nutrients, July 1, 1953 through June 30, 1954: Nitrogen (N), 2 million tons, about 11.2% above 1952-53; Phosphates (P₂O₅), 2.6 million tons, about 10.4% above last year; Potash (K₂O), 1.94 million tons, about 11.9% more than available for preceding year.

* * *

USDA 1953 YEARBOOK

The 1953 Yearbook of Agriculture is entitled "Plant Diseases." Book includes 147 articles and 32 page section of color photographs describing causes and control of hundreds of diseases of crop plants, filling 992 pages. USDA has no copies of Yearbook for sale or general distribution. It may be purchased for \$2.50 from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

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Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

December 16, 1953

GRAINS

U.S. farmers put 407,678,813 bus. of 1953-crop wheat under price support through November 15, compared with 334,347,705 bus. of 1952 crop during same 1952 period. Total all 1953-crop grains and oilseeds under support mid-November was 542,410,000 bus., about 156 million over 1952.

Under support November 15 (in million bus.) corn, 213; barley, 27; grain sorghums, 13; oats, 39; rye, 3; wheat, 408; flaxseed, 12; soybeans, 20. Other 1953 crops placed under support through same date were: winter cover crop seed, 86,609 cwt.; dry edible beans, 2,225,730 cwt.; rough rice, 605,689 cwt.

U.S. sales under the International Wheat Agreement December 2 through 8 amounted to 1,655,000 bus. (including 239,914 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.). Principal buyers - Vatican State, Netherlands, Peru, and Norway.

USDA's wheat and wheat flour export programs started December 8 and 10 respectively, with the announcement of export allowances to be used in establishing prices for CCC-owned wheat f.o.b. ship. Allowances announced daily with IWA export payment rates, in cents per bushel, for exports from U.S. coast ports to specified destinations. Offers to buy wheat should be made to CSS Commodity Offices. Copies of announcements available from same offices in Chicago, New Orleans, Portland, and Dallas.

CSS Commodity Offices sales, week ended December 10: corn, 762,178 bus.; wheat, 5,412 bus.; oats, 14,264 bus.; barley, 31,087 bus.; rye, 294 bus.; soybeans, 18,126 bus.; flaxseed, 4,187 bus.; cheese, 262,977 lbs.

Oats owned by CCC and offered for sale on December CCC domestic sales list, has been withdrawn (December 8). All CCC-owned oats has been allotted for use in drought emergency program.

PRODUCTION OF MARGARINE JANUARY THROUGH OCTOBER 1953 AMOUNTED TO 1,077,093,000 LBS., BUREAU OF CENSUS REPORTS. THIS COMPARES WITH 1,060,938,000 IN THE SAME 10 MONTHS OF 1952. OF 1953 TOTAL, ALL BUT 54.5 MILLION LBS. WAS COLORED.

SUGAR

The U.S. sugar quota for 1954 will be 8 million tons -- December 14. Total is 400,000 tons less than would be needed at rate of disappearance during 1952-53 base period, adjusted for increasing population. This quantity withheld, Secretary of Agriculture Benson stated, in view of possible stockpiling during December and to establish stable prices at levels required by Sugar Act. Similar situation in late 1952 when 1953 quotas were set at 7.8 million tons, later raised to 8.1 million tons.

FRUITS

U.S. crop of early and midseason oranges for 1953-54 crop forecast at 62.1 million boxes, 3% above preceding season and 25% above average. Grapefruit crop now indicated 43.2 million boxes, 13% above last season, but 16% below average. California lemons forecast 13 million boxes, 3% more than preceding season and 2% over average.

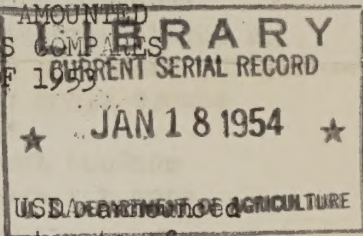
LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

USDA contracts for purchase of beef products last week totaled 1,557,000 lbs., to bring total purchases to aid marketing of lower grades of cattle to 243.2 million lbs. Purchases continuing.

Minimum support price for 1954-crop wool will not be less than 52.1¢ per lb. grease basis, reflecting 90% of estimated parity beginning of marketing year. National average support price for 1953 wool production, 53.1¢ lb.

USDA is considering proposal by Swine Industry Committee to change names of grades for slaughter (live) and carcass barrows and gilts. Proposal would change three choice grades (Choice 1, 2, and 3) to "Meat," "Good," and "Overfat," with no change for Medium and Cull. Interested persons have until February 14, 1954, to submit views to Director, Livestock Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C.

MEAT PRODUCTION UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 12 ESTIMATED 391 MILLION LBS., DOWN 6% FROM THE PRECEDING WEEK AND 11% BELOW SAME WEEK YEAR AGO. DECREASE FROM 1952 DUE TO REDUCED PIG SLAUGHTER -34% UNDER YEAR AGO. WEEK'S OUTPUT INCLUDED (IN MILLION LBS.): BEEF, 202.5; VEAL, 17.7; PORK, 156.9; LAMB AND MUTTON, 13.5.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

POULTRY

U.S. farm flocks laid 4,803 million eggs during November, 7% more than November 1952, and 41% above the November 1942-51 average. Production per hen was at record level in all parts of country. Nation's laying flock averaged 376,759,000 layers during month, 1% above last year, 1% below average.

Potential layers on farms December 1 (including pullets not of laying age) totaled 432,060,000, 2% above last year, but 8% under average.

Turkeys tested for pullorum disease July through November, 1953 totaled 1,481,583, according to report by State testing agencies working in cooperation with National Turkey Improvement Plan, and USDA agencies. This is increase of 7% over same 1952 period. A 11 increase in light breeds - up 86% while heavy breed testings down 8%.

October liquid egg output totaled 8.9 million lbs., nearly 2 million above October, 1952, and 2.1 million lbs. more than 1947-51 October average. Frozen egg production was 6.2 million lbs., up 1.4 million lbs. from last year; and nearly 2.7 million above 5 year average. Dried egg output, 1,144,000 lbs.

DAIRY

Heavy off-season milk production indicated as U.S. November output totaled 8,255 million lbs., 4-1/2% above previous high for month, November 1952, and 8% above 10 year average. Mild weather, liberal supplemental feeding, and contra-seasonal upturn in proportion of cows milked, contributed to month's record flow, USDA believes.

MILK PRODUCTION JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 1953 TOTALED 111.4 BILLION LBS., ABOUT 4.7 BILLION LBS. MORE THAN IN SAME 11 MONTHS OF 1952. WITH AVERAGE CONDITIONS IN DECEMBER, MILK OUTPUT IN 1953 APPEARS LIKELY TO EQUAL OR EXCEED PREVIOUS RECORD HIGH OF 119.8 BILLION LBS. SET IN 1945.

DROUGHT EMERGENCY DISASTER PROGRAM

USDA County Drought Committees have approved farmer requests for more than 1,200,000 tons of feed from CCC-owned stocks since emergency program started in July. More than 2/3rds of orders have been shipped.

Requests for cottonseed meal amounted to 574,000 tons, and CCC's stocks this feed being depleted rapidly. CCC oats holdings exhausted by orders topping 238,000 tons. Although USDA will fill orders for these feeds received prior to December 8, it is unlikely they will continue to be offered under program. Corn, at \$1.00, and wheat at \$1.10 per bus., continue available. CCC stocks of wheat exceed 400 million bus., and corn, are above 450 million bus.

Department has spent over \$46 million in carrying out emergency drought disaster program through December 4. Losses on feeds sold to farmers amounted to about \$29 million, and freight and handling costs estimated \$17.5 million.

COTTON

Cotton producers will vote in referendum December 15 for, or against marketing quotas on 1954 crop. If two-thirds of voters favor quotas, 1954 cotton crop will be supported at 90% of parity. If disapproved by more than one-third, price support will drop to 50% of parity.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas announced for 1954 cotton crop represent reduction near 7 million acres from 1953. Secretary Benson has urged Congress to increase allotment about 3 million acres from legal minimum of 17.9 million, in order to reduce hardships growers will suffer from 27% acreage cut required under existing laws.

TO EASE THE BURDEN OF THE POSTAL SERVICE IN THE CHRISTMAS WEEK AHEAD, FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK. NEXT ISSUE, DECEMBER 30. BEST WISHES TO YOU FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

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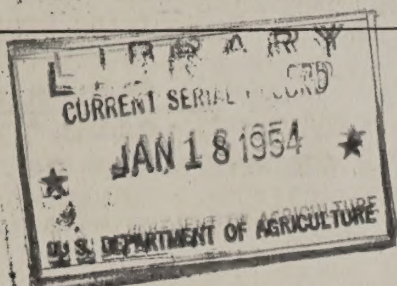
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Food Marketing NEWSLETTER



December 30, 1953

GRAINS

Winter wheat growers apparently accept acreage reductions established for 1954 crop. Report issued by USDA's Crop Reporting Board, December 21, indicates total seedings winter wheat for all purposes 46,575,000 acres, 18% or 10.3 million acres less than last year, and smallest since 1943. Seeded acreage would produce around 750 million bushels wheat based on December 1 conditions. Production in 1953 totaled 878 million bushels.

Additional applications totaling 14,820,940 bus. tentatively accepted for participation in grain occupancy guarantee program announced by USDA December 23, to bring total acceptances since program started to 244,448,097 bus.

U.S. sales under the International Wheat Agreement week ended December 22, amounted to 1,006,000 bus. (including 246,352 cwt. flour in wheat equiv.). Principal buyers, Netherlands, Phillipines and Cuba. Cumulative U. S. sales under 1953-54 quotas, 52,599,000 bus.

Commodity Stabilization Service offices in midwest report following sales week ended December 24: corn, 1,093,565 bus.; wheat, 174,451 bus.; oats, 4,058 bus.; barley, 10,490 bus.; flaxseed, 692 bus.; soybeans, 319,576 bus.; clover seed, 305 cwt.; cheese, 113,699 lbs. Sales included 160,000 bus. corn for export, and 164,851 bus. wheat for shipment as flour under export allowance program.

* * *

JANUARY LIST OF FOODS IN PLENTIFUL SUPPLY IN THE MIDWEST, ISSUED BY FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE: WINTER PEARS, ONIONS, GRAPEFRUIT, BROILERS AND FRYERS, EGGS, BEEF, DAIRY PRODUCTS, POTATOES, CABBAGE, PECANS, TANGERINES, RAISINS, LARGE DRY LIMA AND RED KIDNEY BEANS, FROZEN FISH, PEANUTS AND PEANUT BUTTER, FOOD FATS AND OILS.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

U.S. exports of farm products from July through October 1953, rose 4% over the same period of 1952, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service reports. Shipments of agricultural products during the four months this year were valued at \$873,937,000 compared with \$842,660,000 for July-October 1952.

Four month upward trend which began in July continued during October. Value of farm products exported in latter month totaled \$241,514,000, about 3% above September but \$23.5 million below October 1952. Rising trend in exports credited to increased foreign demand based on improved economic conditions and bigger dollar balances in important countries, replenishing of some stocks, and better competitive pricing of U. S. products.

* * *

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

CCC price support program loans and inventories October 31 represented investment of \$4,544,897,000. Corporation reported net realized loss of \$62,764,169 carrying out program July through October 1953.

Of total investment, loans outstanding, principally on wheat, corn, cotton and tobacco, totaled \$2,003,841,000 (including \$998,246,000 of commodity loans financed by lending agencies). Major commodities under loan and funds invested were: wheat, 351 million bus.-\$761 million; cotton, 3,049,353 bales-\$495 million; corn, 235 million bus.-\$365 million; tobacco, 507 million lbs.-\$222 million.

The investment in inventories amounted to \$2,541,046,000. Major holdings were: wheat, 454 million bus.-\$1,178 million; corn, 289 million bus.-\$480 million; butter, 302 million lbs.-\$202 million; cottonseed oil, 870 million lbs.-\$160 million; cheese, 269 million lbs.-\$108 million.

* * *

U.S. FARMERS RECEIVED ABOUT \$28.1 BILLION FROM MARKETINGS FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1953, 4% LESS THAN SAME 1952 PERIOD. MARKETING VOLUME OF PRODUCTS 5% LARGER THAN 1952 BUT PRICES RECEIVED AVERAGED 10% LOWER. CASH RECEIPTS FROM LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS TOTALLED \$15.6 BILLION, DOWN 8% FROM LAST YEAR. CROP RECEIPTS FOR 11 MONTH PERIOD \$12.5 BILLION, ABOUT SAME AS 1952.

* * *

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS NOVEMBER 30, 1953

Cooler Commodities	Holdings	Net Change	Freezer Commodities	Holdings	Net Change
	Nov. 30 1,000 lbs.	during Nov 1,000 lbs.		Nov. 30 1,000 lbs.	during Nov 1,000 lbs.
Apples	1,334,064	- 79,248	Cream	13,915	- 4,700
Pears	142,900	- 7,750	Butter, creamery	288,527	-23,047
Other fresh fruits	166,995	- 40,227	Eggs	60,793	-26,074
Fresh vegetables	116,647	+ 15,455	Poultry	285,894	+26,809
Dried & evap. fts.	26,454	- 434	Fruits	378,676	-12,345
Nuts & nut meats	55,100	+ 4,949	Juices	183,218	- 7,467
Cheese	427,515	- 21,272	Vegetables	721,120	-16,307
Other dairy prod.	85,086	- 28,049	Beef	198,221	+35,677
Shell eggs	6,030	- 6,930	Veal	19,290	+ 4,414
Dried eggs	1,581	- 431	Pork	144,115	+52,255
Beef	7,354	+ 910	Lamb and mutton	12,709	+ 1,947
Pork	121,986	+ 32,572	Edible offal	56,238	+ 7,836
Sausage	9,048	+ 628	Sausage	5,456	+ 3
Canned meats	26,932	+ 5,064	Miscellaneous	212,644	- 1,073
Miscellaneous	262,498	- 21,573			
Total	2,790,190	-146,336	Total	2,580,816	+37,928

Poultry stocks 10% above average--turkey stocks, 134 million lbs., 25% over average. Frozen fruits 20% greater than year ago; frozen vegetables 27% greater. Beef holdings above Nov. 30 average but below year ago while pork under both last year and average. Public cooler space 67% occupied Nov. 30, down 3% in month. Freezers at 81% occupancy were 3% above year ago and 4% above average.

MAJOR REVISION OF U.S. STANDARDS FOR GRADES OF POTATOES PROPOSED BY USDA. LAST REVISED IN 1949 BUT CURRENT PROPOSAL REPRESENTS BIGGEST CHANGE SINCE 1933. REVISIONS PROVIDE FOR HIGHER QUALITY IN EACH GRADE. RECOMMENDED BY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. FOR DETAILS CONTACT FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION, AMS, USDA, WASHINGTON, 25, D.C.

DAIRY

USDA announced December 24 that part of it's butter price support stocks would be offered for sale on competitive bid basis for use as cocoa butter substitute. Details to be announced soon. Cocoa butter, used primarily in manufacture of chocolate and confectionery products, currently in short supply. About 25 to 30 million lbs. sold annually in U. S.

USDA butter stocks amounted to over 250 million lbs. December 11. Department previously disposed of 117.6 million lbs; to commercial outlets, 3.7 million lbs; to nonprofit school lunch and institutions, 70.6 million lbs; donated to private welfare agencies, mostly for relief distribution overseas, 28.1 million lbs.; sales to U. S. Army, 15 million lbs.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

U. S. pig crop in 1953 totaled 82.1 million head, down 10% from 1952. Spring crop 50.2 million head, was 11% under 1952, fall crop 31.9 million down 9%. Producers' plans for 1954 spring crop indicate 7,795,000 sows to farrow, 6% more than farrowed last spring. If plans are carried out and pigs saved per litter equal 10 year average, with allowance for upward trend, 1954 spring crop would total 52 million head-about 4% larger than this spring.

USDA completed domestic beef buying program December 16. Total purchases nearly 250 million lbs. Department will continue beef purchases for FOA as requisitions are received. Estimated 865,000 head cattle required to fill Agency's beef contracts.

MEAT PRODUCTION UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION IN HOLIDAY WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 26 ESTIMATED 275 MILLION LBS., 27% BELOW PRECEDING WEEK AND 2% LESS THAN SAME WEEK OF 1952. WEEK'S TOTAL OUTPUT SMALLEST ANY WEEK SINCE AUGUST 1952, DUE TO 28% DECREASE IN HOG KILL FROM YEAR EARLIER. SLAUGHTER OTHER SPECIES ABOVE YEAR AGO. OUTPUT INCLUDED (IN MILLION LBS.): BEEF, 142.8; VEAL, 11.6; PORK, 111.1; LAMB AND MUTTON, 9.9.

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